

LEPROSY IN NEW YORK.

The Dread of the Leprosy—Some Wealthy Lepers—A Mysterious Case.

Information furnished by leading dermatologists induced the reporter to inspect the hospitals under the care of the commissioners of public charities and correction. At the charity hospital on Blackwell's Island his search was successful. Two lepers were found in the skin ward, which is under the immediate charge of Dr. G. P. Fitch, and never suffered from any sickness except measles and mumps. But he was of a leprosy family, and seven years ago the dark spots made their appearance upon his knees and elbows. Another such pitiful spectacle as these two lepers, the stranger leading the more feeble-minded Norwegian, one would hope never to see.

Evans had several other companions in misery. The first was Charles Henckle, an aged German, seventy-one years of age, who had lived in Mexico, where he contracted the disease early in life. He died on the 27th of November, 1881, at Blackwell's Island. His case was considered remarkable on account of his advanced years. Following Henckle were two Japanese lepers and a Chinaman. About two months ago Sakichi Niskawa was in the Charity hospital. He had been employed by the Y. M. C. A. company of 47 Liberty street. One day his friend, Boro Masa, of Unani Trading company, 7 Mercer street, noticed a spot on Sakichi's forehead. He ascertained that Sakichi had other spots upon his body, and that his fingers were drawn up as if with paralysis. Then he breathed his suspicions to his friend. Sakichi wanted to make an end of himself, and was with difficulty restrained. In his case the disease spread rapidly. He was examined by the physicians of the New York hospital, pronounced leprosy, and sent to the Charity hospital on Blackwell's Island, where he remained some time, only leaving upon his return to Japan, where he now is. Sakichi was an educated Japanese, who read and talked intelligently of many subjects.

The Chinaman, whose name could not be ascertained, was afflicted with a very severe variety of the disease. He could pick up red-hot iron in his hands without feeling pain. This was one of the leper Henckle's characteristics. He had been known to pick up hot metal without knowing it until he perceived that his flesh was seared.

A day or two later the reporter learned that another leper had been admitted to the hospital, and made another visit there. Half a dozen men were playing cards in the ward. One of them was Evans, the leper. At the end of the room sat the despondent Anderson. He had been improving, but had been set back again by the appearance of the new patient. Another man, who lay between saffron sheets, his head on a saffron pillow, Miller is a Dane, twenty-two years old. Two years ago he came here from Christiansted, St. Croix. He is a printer by trade. Since coming here he has been in the most miserable condition. About nine months ago the fatal spots made their appearance. He grew rapidly worse, could get no work, and finally, on the 14th of this month, when admitted to the Charity hospital, was in a dying condition.

The secluded cases of leprosy next claimed attention. After much inquiry it was learned that the known cases were all more or less under the observation of the members of the Dermatological society, and from these gentlemen the following facts were ascertained. During the month of February Philadelphia was much exercised over the report that a leper who had escaped from Hawaii was living in that city. The exposure and consequent fear of being shut up in some lazaretto caused the leper to take flight, and it was supposed that he had made his way into western Canada. But the supposition was altogether wrong. For the man is in New York, whither he came directly from Philadelphia. He is now within a pistol shot of the corner of Broadway and Thirty-second streets. His case presents many remarkable features. His name is kept a profound secret. He is thirty-four years of age, was born in Honolulu, and resides there, occasionally making trips to the States. His parents were natives of New Hampshire. By occupation a planter, he also held a judicial position, and was a man of wealth and influence among the natives and foreign population. He is married man with a family. About eight years ago he noticed the fatal dead spot of skin just above the knee. The spot spread slowly but steadily, and shooting sensations coursed through his limbs. Then he lost sensation in his hands. Drs. Hogan and Frouseau, skilled physicians, could do nothing for him, and finally, in despair, but still ignorant of the fearful disease of which he was the victim, he came to this country and made his way to Philadelphia, to Dr. Samuel D. Gross. By this time no doubt could be entertained that he was a leper. This case is instructive, as it shows how wealthy lepers fly from countries where the leprosy would close upon them forever to this country, where they are free to mingle with the healthy, scattering the scourge as they move.

A still more remarkable case of leprosy in this city is that of a wealthy German lady, who is suffering from the disease. She is married, and has children. Noticing spots upon her face and feeling numbness in her hands, she called in Dr. F. A. Morrow, of 13 Forty-first street, who, after a careful examination, was forced to tell the unfortunate lady that she was a leper. Dr. Morrow was very certain that leprosy is increasing, and that it is contagious, and that active measures should be taken to stop the spread of the disease.

Dr. Putzel, of 250 East Forty-eighth street, surgeon to the bureau of outdoor relief of Bellevue hospital, has a case which Dr. Sturges pronounced a case of muscular leprosy. Dr. Putzel is not satisfied that the young Irishman is a leper, but skilled dermatologists have no doubt of the fact. This young Irishman works along the wharves as a stevedore.

One of the most mysterious cases of leprosy is that of a wealthy New Yorker, who is believed to have contracted the disease while traveling in Oriental countries. His identity is known to but two physicians, and they keep his secret inviolate. He is not seen by former friends, and although he frequently drives out it is always in a closed coupe.

Moon Made of Green Cheese?
That is one of the things we know very little about. So also about the man in the moon; we know hardly anything of him. But we do know, that if the man in the moon, or any other man, partakes too freely of green cheese or any other indigestible article of diet, he will have dyspepsia and bowel troubles. And we know that the way to get rid of such is to take PERRY DAVIS'S PAIN KILLER.

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